



IF PROGRAM Newsletter

Volume I Issue 4

14 February 2003

ISSUE CONTENTS

Spring Trip.....	Page 2
Graduation Information....	Page 2
Departure Points and Pertinent Info	
Clearing.....	Page 2
Announcements.....	Page 2
Car Sales.....	Page 3
Travel Plans.....	Page 3
Utilities & Services.....	Page 4
Holiday Background Information	
Valentine's Day.....	Page 5
President's Day.....	Page 5
ST Patrick's Day.....	Page 6
National Days.....	Page 6

NOTE: This issue is sent out late due to automation issues. The holidays may be passed but the information contained in here will still be helpful

WWW.WEB NOTES

The International Fellows Program INTRANET WEB is up and running. This is the first installment of more to come. The INTRANET version will be identical to the INTERNET one. So let you compatriots and friends know all about it. There will be continuous and constant changes in the future as the Army 'fine tunes' its capabilities to reach out and touch people. As soon as the INTERNET version is up and running, I will put the word out and get everyone "in the know."



The CALENDAR!!

February

14.....Valentine's Day
17.....President's Day
26.....SCE Orientation
28.....OSC/AWC Class Auction

March

15.....West Point Founder's
Day (LVCC)
17.....ST Patrick's Day
18-31....Strategic Crisis Exercise

General Information

2003 SPRING TRIP!!

I AM SURE THAT MOST OF YOU ARE JUST ITCHING TO SET PLANS IN MOTION FOR THE ACADEMIC SPRING TRIP. UNFORTUNATELY DUE TO THOSE EVENTS THAT ARE HAPPENING ON A 'WORLDWIDE' LEVEL, WE STILL HAVE NOT IRONED OUT ALL THE DETAILS. OUR ORIGINAL PLAN AND INTENT HAS BEEN CHANGING ON ALMOST A DAILY BASIS. AS SOON AS WE GET SOMETHING THAT IS SOLID AND HAS LITTLE CHANCE OF CHANGING, YOU WILL BE NOTIFIED. SO HANG IN THERE AND STAND FAST!!



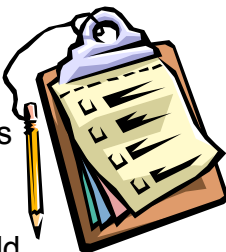
GRADUATION INFORMATION!!

As the class draws nearer to graduation on June 7, 2003, the requirement to plan your return movement becomes more pressing. It's time to think about coordinating payment of final bills, disposing of your car, sending Retainable Instructional Material (RIM), clearing quarters, arranging airline tickets, terminating utilities (water, telephone, TV Cable, gas, oil, trash, etc.), and a wide variety of other details.



CLEARING PROCEDURES

When the time comes, you will receive a set of clearing papers to utilize during your outprocessing. Although you may, or not, have used some of the facilities here on the barracks, you will still need to go by and get the appropriate signature and/or stamp. Providing a GOOD FORWARDING/NEXT address is critical. Your address will not be released to any unauthorized individuals. It can be an official address if you would prefer. Once you receive your clearing papers feel free to stop by and see Toby to resolve any issues you foresee.



SELLING/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Although the email and US Army War College's various networks provide superb distribution and capability to 'reach out and touch' so many different personnel; **you cannot use the email service** or any automated version to sell, trade, or relief yourself of burdensome items. If you think it is okay to use a certain format or network to 'unload' yourself, check with the appropriate personnel/section/office before taking that first step. If you are unsure who to contact about it, please stop by the IF Office and ask. Someone will be able to point you in the right direction. There are a number of ways you can accomplish your mission, and *make a few bucks!*

CAR SALES!!!

For some Fellows, the disposition of the car is already planned. Others will need to sell their cars.



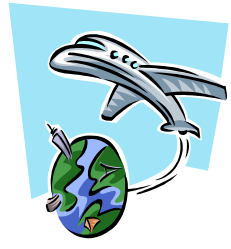
Cars (and other items) may be advertised for sale in the Carlisle Barracks Daily Bulletin at no charge to the seller. Some cars were sold under a “buy back” plan, with the dealer agreeing to repurchase the car. My advice is to advertise and make every attempt to sell it to another student or a local citizen. If you have not disposed of your vehicle by the week prior to the date you are scheduled to leave, sell it to a dealer or arrange for a friend to sell it for you using a “Special Power of Attorney” available from the Post Judge Advocate Office.



RETURN TRAVEL PLANS

As we approach the end of the Academic Year, you should have already taken the initial steps for return travel arrangements. There are a few things that I would like to point out.

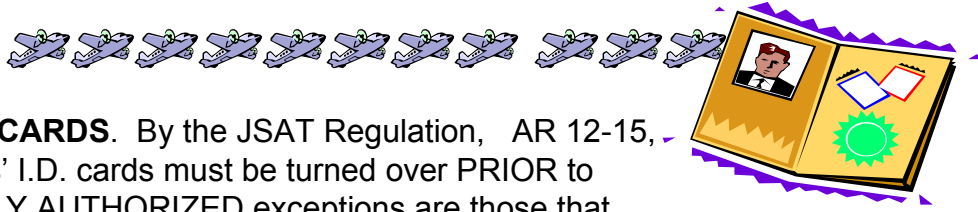
With the latest changes to the security requirements for flying on commercial aircraft, some airlines have already DECREASED the maximum weight allowance of checked baggage from 70 pounds to 50 pounds. There are a few airlines who have waived the 20 pounds for those traveling under official government orders. I would suggest that you check and verify with your particular company and find out what the maximum allowance is. Excess weight can be very, VERY expensive if even authorized. I would also point out that check-in times vary from flight to flight. This would also be something to inquire about while you are speaking to them.



If you are an **IMET** student and have not **FINALIZED** your travel arrangement with Toby, it would be in your best interest to do so now.



ALL INTERNATIONAL FELLOWS. When you do have your travel arrangements pinpointed down to dates and itineraries, please send an email to Toby informing him of the details. This information must be captured for “Completion Reports” and “SAO” notification messages back to your countries.



IDENTIFICATION (I.D.) CARDS. By the JSAT Regulation, AR 12-15, you and your dependents’ I.D. cards must be turned over **PRIOR** to your departure. The **ONLY AUTHORIZED** exceptions are those that have been granted by the Director, COL Vogt.

UTILITIES & SERVICES

Most of the utility services mentioned require 30 days notice to get final bills determined. The telephone company will not have your final bill ready until mid-July regardless of when they are notified. The TV Cable company will not return your deposit until four weeks after you return the converter box. Many other services also take several weeks to determine final billing.

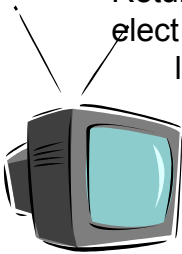


In previous years, Fellows have dealt with the payment of late billing in many ways. Some have left enough money to cover the unpaid bills with a friend, landlord (or owner), or sponsor. Others have arranged for the Embassy to clear the accounts. A third option used successfully in years past is to have the next student from your country clear final accounts, then settle with your countryman.

You may elect to leave your bank account open so as to pay final bills by check. Remember to leave sufficient funds in your account.



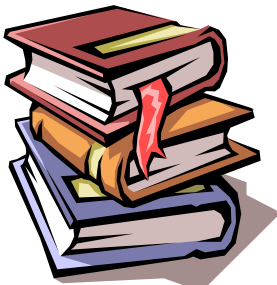
Return deposits for TV Cable converters can be arranged in a like manner. You may elect to have the return deposit sent to your bank account, to your sponsor, to your landlord or to you at your next address.



The IF Office staff will help as much as possible; however, WE CANNOT pay bills, sell cars or other items, clear quarters or move furniture. Do not plan to leave money for bills with the office. If you can think of no other way to pay these bills, stop by and we will work on a resolution to your dilemma.

R.I.M.
(Retainable Instructional Material)

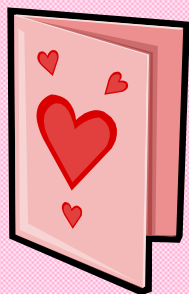
You will be allowed to send Retainable Instructional Material (RIM) back to your country. The IF office will receive, verify, seal and mail your boxes between 23 and 30 May. Typically, it is broken down by country by date. A memorandum with the schedule and details will be sent out to you at a later date. You are authorized 200 lbs (approx 90 kg) of RIM shipped to the U.S. Army Representative in your country for further shipment to you. The boxes will be checked for non-academic material prior to shipment. Material in excess of the weight and/or not course related will be returned to you. You may either mail this at your personal expense or carry with you.



USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

- Carlisle Borough, Water Dept.....249-4422
- COMCAST.....1-800-995-6545
- Pennsylvania Power & Light...1-800-342-5775
- Sprint.....1-800-877-4646
- United Gas Inc (UGI).....1-800-276-2722
- Waste Management (Trash)....1-800-634-4595

!!HOLIDAY INFORMATION!!



(February 14)

VALENTINE'S DAY

Many schools hold Valentine's Day parties when the children make special decorations for their classrooms. Old and young alike exchange Valentine cards with their friends. The custom of exchanging greetings on Valentine's Day goes back hundreds of years. Where it is believed that Saint Valentine had given a card to the blind daughter of his executioner on the morning of his execution.

Different authorities believe Valentine's Day began in various way. Some trace it to an ancient Roman festival called Lupercalia. Other experts connect the event with one or more saints of early Christian church. Still others link it with an old English belief that birds choose their mates on February 14. Valentine's Day probably came from a combination of all three of these sources—plus belief that spring is a time for lovers. In Europe, people celebrate in many different ways. British children sing special songs and receive gifts of candy, fruit, or money. In some areas of England, people bake buns with caraway seeds, plus or raisins. In Italy a Valentine's Day feast is held.

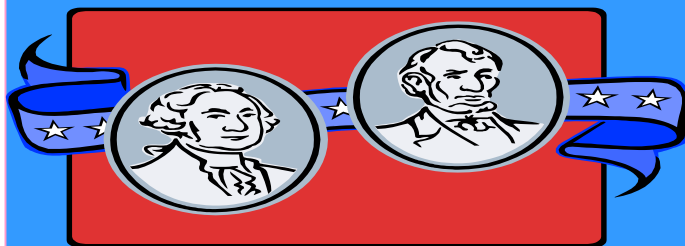
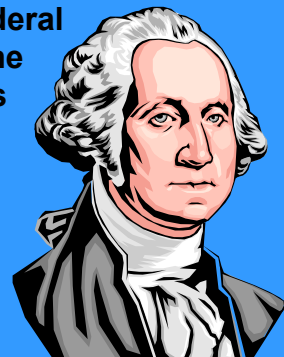


**ROSES ARE RED,
VIOLETS ARE BLUE,
CHOCOLATE IS SWEET
AND SO ARE YOU!!**

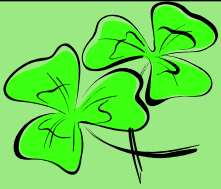
PRESIDENT'S DAY

(February 17)

President's Day is a federal holiday celebrated in the US. The day celebrates the birthdays of Presidents George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. The birthday of George Washington, the First US President, actually falls on February 22nd. While Abraham Lincoln's, the 16th President, falls on February 12th. Originally both birthdays were celebrated as holidays. But about 15-20 years ago Congress passed a law that moved the celebrations of many of the federal holidays to Mondays (for a 3 day weekend and to save \$\$). Presidents Day was created as a way to observe the 2 birthdays and is celebrated on the Monday that falls between their birthdays. As a federal holiday all governmental (federal and state) offices and buildings are closed, as are post offices and banks. Schools are recommended to be closed but is left to the discretion of the state. It is also an occasion for many retail establishments to have special promotions!!



...more holiday history



ST PATRICK'S DAY

(17 March)

The person who was to become St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland, was born in Wales about AD 385. His given name was Maewyn. When he was 16, he was sold into slavery to Ireland where he was a shepherd for 6 years. While in captivity he studied and turned to religion. He escaped slavery and later returned to Ireland as a missionary, determined to convert Ireland to Christianity. He used the shamrock to explain the Holy Trinity. He used it in his sermons to represent how the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit could all exist as separate elements of the same entity. His followers adopted the custom of wearing a shamrock on his feast day. Patrick was quite successful at winning converts. And this fact upset the Celtic Druids. Patrick was arrested several times, but escaped each time. (Possibly the origin of the ever evasive Leprechaun). He traveled throughout Ireland, establishing monasteries across the country. He also set up schools and churches which would aid him in his conversion of the Irish country to Christianity. His mission in Ireland lasted for thirty years. After that time, Patrick retired to County Down. He died on March 17 in AD 461.



The holiday, March 17th, is marked by parades in cities across the U.S. The largest of these, held since 1762, is in New York City, and draws more than one million spectators each year. In Ireland, it is a religious holiday similar to Christmas and Easter.

National Days!!



FEBRUARY

- 4 Feb – Independence & National Day (Sri Lanka)
- 25 Feb – National Day (Kuwait)

MARCH

- 23 Mar – Pakistan Day (Pakistan)
- 26 Mar – Independence Day (Bangladesh)